

REMARKS

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 112, 1st paragraph on the grounds that the claim is not supported by the specification. More specifically, it is alleged in paragraph 1 of the office action that the specification fails to disclose a sleeve member pressed onto serrations on the rear section of the chuck body, as called for by claim 1 below:

1. A chuck for a manual or powered driver having a rotatable drive shaft, said chuck including:

- (1) a body, said body including a front section and a rear section;
- (2) a plurality of jaws operatively associated with said body, said jaws being adapted to engage a tool to be utilized by the driver;
- (3) *the rear section of said body including serrations* extending outwardly therefrom; and
- (4) *a sleeve member pressed onto said serrations* whereby said serrations dig into said sleeve to at least assist in rotationally securing said sleeve to said body. (emphasis added)

With particular reference to Figure 4 and page 7, lines 12-14 and 25-32, the specification explains that a bearing thrust ring 50 is pressed to a body member 16 and that serrations 58 may be provided on the thrust ring's outer circumference so that a sleeve member 14 may be pressed onto the thrust ring. While recognizing this disclosure, the office action takes the position that the thrust ring is not part of the chuck body and, therefore, serrations 58 are not formed on the body as required by claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the grounds that, as indicated in the specification and understood in the art, the thrust ring is part of the chuck body.

The thrust ring is a radially outward extension of the body to receive rearward force from the nut into the body. As described at page 7, lines 6-17 of the specification and as apparent from the figures, thrust ring 50 defines a race of a bearing assembly 48 and is an outward extension of the rear wall of groove 36 (*see* Figures 2 and 4) so that the nut is supported in the rearward direction. When the chuck's jaws fully close, for example onto a tool shank, rearward force from the jaws urges the nut rearwardly into the bearing assembly and the thrust ring. That is, the chuck body extends outward into the thrust ring to receive rearward thrust from the nut.

The fact that thrust ring 50 and body member 16 are formed as separate pieces makes the thrust ring no less part of the chuck body. The two pieces are pressed together so that they function as a unitary body as they would if integrally formed. If the parts were integrally formed, however, formation of the metal body would require bar stock of a diameter large enough to accommodate the thrust ring's outer diameter. Thus, as indicated in the specification at page 3, lines 11-14 and page 13, lines 28-32, the chuck bodies of the embodiments described in the present application are formed from two separate pieces to reduce the bar stock's size and, therefore, cost:

The bearing thrust ring is formed separately from the body member and pressed thereon so as to increase the effective diameter of the body while minimizing the machining requirements.

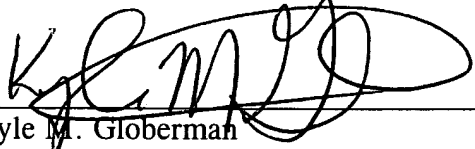
The body member 16 may be machined from a relatively small diameter bar since the bearing thrust ring 50 is made separately and then pressed onto the body member. This reduces the machining costs for the body member.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the written specification and drawings describe and illustrate a chuck body having a thrust ring that is serrated about its outer circumference. A sleeve is pressed onto the thrust ring, and therefore the chuck body, at the serrations so that the sleeve is rotationally secured to the body. Accordingly, the specification supports claim 1, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and that favorable action be taken in the present application. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in an effort to discuss and resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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